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241.

N E Y L A N D

U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L .

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for

1955.





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Preface to the Report.

District Health Office,
County Offices,
Haverfordwest.

June, 1956.

To the Chairman & Members
of the Neyland Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present my Report upon matters relating to the Health of the Public for your District for the year 1955.

The estimated population for the year is 2,210, a figure which has remained more or less static over the past 9 years. Due to a rather low Birth Rate for several years, there had been very little natural increase in population, and there has been practically no immigration to the District.

The Birth Rate for the year in question shows a considerable rise over that for 1954 & preceding years. This is a hopeful sign regarding future population figures.

Also the Death Rate for the year shows a decrease over the previous year. It is still however, higher than the National Death Rate. This is chiefly accounted for by deaths in the elderly due to diseases of the Heart & Circulatory System. Better welfare of the aged would probably reduce the death rate in this class.

For the fourth successive year one fresh case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been notified. And for the third successive year no deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis have been registered in the District. Also during the year in question there were no cases or deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The District has remained free from any serious Infectious Disease.

Immunisation against Diphtheria & Whooping Cough is available to all parents for their children. Towards the latter part of 1955 B.C.G. vaccination of School children, against Tuberculosis, was commenced. At time of writing (June 1956) Immunisation against Poliomyelitis has also been made available.

The routine sampling of water, milk, Ice Cream, mineral waters etc. has fallen considerably from the standard set some years ago. It is a tedious & Time consuming job, but, in my opinion, very necessary to maintain a high hygienic standard in the handling and distribution of these particular commodities. If milk, water or Ice Cream are contaminated, the results can be widespread, and may be serious. I hope a solution will be found to the declining sampling programme.

CONSTITUTION OF RELEVANT COMMITTEES FOR 1955-56.

Chairman of Council -- G.F.Rees.

Vice-Chairman of Council -- S.C.Webb.

Sanitary, Highways & Water Committee.

Chairman:- W.A. Rudge.

Vice-Chairman :- A.J.Gillam.

Members:-
J. Betty.
J.H.Nicholas.
F.W.Reeves.
G.F.Rees.
D.J.Vaughan.
R.T.Webb.

Housing Committee.

Chairman:- S.C.Webb.

Vice-Chairman:- W.Jacob.

Members:-
H.Brown.
W.H.Charles.
J.C.G.John.
G.S.D.Parry.
G.F.Rees.
G.W.E.Simpson.

OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.Date of appointment.

Clerk:- F.Foster.	1. 7. 47.
Sanitary Officer & Surveyor:- E.Jones	1. 7. 54. to 30. 4. 55.
D.D.Thomas.	1. 5. 55.
Medical Officer of Health W.J.Y.Speedy.	1. 10. 47.
M.B., C.CH., L.R.C.P. & S., D.P.H.	

The Housing Programme of the Council, both in regard to New Housing and the treatment of low category houses, cannot be regarded as a great achievement. The falling Birth-Rate, the failure of the population of the District to increase, and the high mortality amongst older inhabitants, are all affected by housing conditions.

I wish to thank the members of the Council, and the Officers, for the continued courtesy and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant.

W.J.Y. Speedy.

Medical Officer of Health.

P A R T 1.

V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S

and

E P I D E M O L O G Y



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SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS for 1955

Estimate Mid Year Population	-----	2,210
Natural Increase in Population	-----	= 8
General Birth Rate	-----	18.3 (a)
General Death Rate	-----	12.8 (a)
Infant Mortality Rate	-----	25.6 (b)

(a) per 1000 population.
 (b) per 1000 Live Births.

=====

Births & Birth Rates.

Classification of Births.

	<u>Live</u>			<u>Still</u>		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate	16	21	37	1	2	3
Illegitimate	1	1	2	0	0	0
	17	22	39	1	2	3

Total Live & Still Births	=	42
Live Births	=	39
Still Births	=	3
Illegitimate Births	=	2

Birth Rates.

General Birth Rate for District for 1955	=	18.3/1000 pop.
" " " " County " "	=	17.6 " "
" " " " England & Wales" "	=	15.0 " "

The Birth Rate for the District is higher than both the County & National Rates. This is a welcome trend as the Birth Rate for the previous three years was well below the National Rate. The present rate is the best for the District since 1951 (19.1).

Still Births.

The number of Still Births in the District fluctuates considerably as the following Table shows:-

1947	=	1	1951	=	1
1948	=	0	1952	=	0
1949	=	0	1953	=	0
1950	=	5	1954	=	0
			1955	=	3

Illegitimate Births

The number of Illegitimate Births for 1955 (2), remains approximately the same as for the previous 8 years.

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Deaths & Death Rates.Classification of Deaths.

	M.	F.	Total.
1. Diseases of Heart & Circulatory System	2	11	13
2. Cancer	3	3	6
3. Diseases of Brain & Nervous System	1	3	4
4. Diseases of Respiratory System (Excluding T.B. & Cancer)	3	0	3
5. Infectious Diseases (excluding T.B.)	1	0	1
6. Violent Deaths	1	0	1
7. Unclassified	1	2	3
	12	19	31

General Death Rates.

General Death Rate for District for 1955	= 12.8/1000 pop.
" " " " County " "	= 12.4/ " "
" " " " England & Wales"	= 11.7/ " "

The Death Rate is somewhat higher than the National Rate, but is considerably lower than the Rate for the preceding year. (14.4)

Infant Mortality.

There was one Infant Death during the year, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 25.6/1000 Live births. This Rate is favourable compared with the National Rate.

Cancer Mortality.

There were 6 Cancer deaths during the year, as compared with 4 deaths during each of the 3 preceding years.

The number of Cancer deaths has varied only between 4 & 6 since 1949.

Violent Deaths.

There was one Violent death due to an accident during the year.

The Annual number of Violent deaths has not exceeded 1 since 1947.

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Infectious Diseases.

The following notifications were received during the year.

Measles	= 56
Whooping Cough	= 4
Food Poisoning	= 2
Others	= Nil

The District has continued to be free from any serious Infectious Disease.

For many years Diphtheria has been absent from the list of notifications. The following Table shows the decline in Diphtheria in Wales since 1945:-

	<u>Cases in Wales.</u>	<u>Deaths in Wales.</u>
1945	1,411.	57.
1949	102.	1.
1955	1.	0.

Poliomyelitis has never been a problem in the District, nevertheless parents will have the opportunity during 1956, of having their children immunised against Infantile Paralysis.

Immunisation against Diphtheria & Whooping Cough is already available through the family doctor service, but there is considerable apathy on the part of parents to make use of the facilities provided.

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Tuberculosis

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

One fresh case and no deaths is the record for the year.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There were no cases and no deaths during the year.

Miniature Mass Radiography.

A visit from the Miniature Mass Radiography Unit to the District is expected early in 1956.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

B.C.G. Vaccination of 13 year old school children commenced toward the end of the year, and will be continued annually. The object is to give those children who have not already acquired some resistance to Tuberculosis an artificiaally produced resistance before leaving School.

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P A R T 11

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E N V I R O N M E N T A L H Y G I E N E .

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Food Control.

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List of Registered Premises.

Sale of Ice Cream	= 12.
Slaughter Houses.	= 2.
Manufacture & Sale of Sausages	= 3.
Sale of Prepared Food	= 1.

	18.

Food Shops.

Generally the standard of cleanliness is good. All Premises were inspected during the year. The total number of inspections being 37.

Each food shop has been issued with an abstract of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and a survey will be carried out to ensure that the requirements of the regulations are being adhered to.

Food Condemned.

A total of 172 lbs of tinned foods and 66 stone of fish were voluntarily surrendered by traders during the year. This food was so disposed of as to prevent it being used for human consumption.

Meat Inspection.

There are two private slaughterhouses operating in the town and their standard of cleanliness is good. They are regularly visited and all meat slaughtered is subject to inspections during these visits.

The following is a summary of the animals inspected during the year.

Bovines	112.	Sheep	31
Calves	43.	Pigs	274
Lambs	608		

A total of 286 lbs of fresh meat was voluntarily surrendered as being unsaleable or unfit.

Bakeries & Bakehouses.

There is now only one Bakehouse in the town, the second having closed down during the year. Regular inspections have been carried out on the premises during the year.

Name & Location:- Harry Jones, Coronation Bakery,
Kensington Road.

Cafes, Hotels & Restaurants.

During the year a second cafe has opened in the town.

- a) Miss C. Butler. Station Cafe.
- b) W.J. Warlow. Picton Road.

The two premises were inspected and found satisfactory on each occasion.

Ice Cream.

There are 12 premises in the District selling Ice Cream. Each of these should have been sampled approximately once per month.

No Ice Cream samples were taken during the year, nor the previous year.

Food Poisoning.

Nil to Report.

Water Supplies. =====

Source of Supply.

Water is supplied to the District through the Milford Haven U.D.C. The source of the water is the Prescelly gathering ground and impounding Reservoir situated in the North of the County.

The water is a typical upland surface water, rather soft and is filtered, chemically treated, and chlorinated at Prescelly.

A branch main from the Prescelly trunk main, supplies the Neyland service reservoir. From there the water is distributed to the District without further treatment. It would be desirable to have an emergency system of distribution available at this service reservoir.

Storage.

The present storage reservoir holds 50,000 gallons, i.e. approximately one day's supply. The new storage reservoir, in course of construction, will increase this to 200,000 gallons and also increase the pressure.

Distribution.

Water supplies for the district is bought in bulk from the Milford Haven U.D.C. who in turn are supplied by the Prescelly Water Board.

It has been indicated during the past year that portions of the old water mains in the area are being affected by corrosion common to soft and acid water. In some areas it is estimated that the corrosive action has reached such a stage that the injection of a preventative chemical would serve no useful purpose. The only method now open is a programme of descaling and bitumen coating of certain lengths of mains.

General Statistics.

Percentage Premises in District with piped supply	= 100%
Number of new connections during year 1955	= 30
Average Daily consumption of water 1955	= 51,000 galls

Sampling & Control.

Routine sampling (bacteriological & chemical) at the Prescelly Headworks, both before and after treatment, is carried out by the Water Engineer to the Prescelly Water Board.

In addition samples are taken at consumer level in the District for general bacteriological examination.

The number of samples which should be taken at consumer level should be 4 to 6 per month i.e. approximately 50 per year. During 1955 only 3 samples were taken, two of these were satisfactory and one unsatisfactory.

Milk Supplies.

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The quality, both hygienic & nutritive, of milk supplies has increased greatly over the past 8 years, the District is in an attested area, and hence milk is relatively free from Tuberculosis.

As regards the hygienic handling and distribution of milk, the sampling scheme, commenced some 7-8 years ago, has undoubtedly increased the standard. Samples are forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory Carmarthen for testing and reports. All samples taken for general bacteriological examination, during the year, were satisfactory. One sample, taken for biological examination (*Brucella abortus*) proved doubtful, and was followed up by the veterinary service.

The number of samples taken each year is gradually falling, in spite of the minimum requirements often repeated to be thought necessary. If the sampling scheme becomes slack then it is possible that the care taken in handling & distributing milk will also become slack. The following table shows the total number of samples taken each year since 1949:-

1949	= 59
1950	= 49
1951	= 44
1952	= 27
1953	= 26
1954	= 21
1955	= 7

Summary of Milk Producers & Vendors in the District.

	<u>Designated.</u>		<u>Non-Designated.</u>	
	<u>Raw.</u>	<u>Past.</u>	<u>Raw.</u>	<u>Past.</u>
Producers only.	2	-	1	-
Retailers only.	3	-	1	-

General statistics.

- a) Number of Dealers licenses in force at Dec 1955. = 2.
 b) Number of Supplementary Licenses " " = 2.
 c) Number of inspection of vendors vehicles" = 10.
 d) Number of inspections of dairies & Equipment. = 2.
 (the only dairy in the area closed in May 1955).

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Housing.Council Housing Programme.

<u>Pre-War</u>		= Nil.
<u>Post - War</u>	1946	= Nil.
	1947	= Nil.
	1948	= 16
	1949	= 30
	1950	= 4
	1951	= 16.
	1952	= 5.
	1953	= 3.
	1954	= Nil.
	1955	= 28.

	Total	102.

Inspections Under Housing Acts.

1. Total Inspections carried out during the year	= 172.
2. Number of informal (Repairs) notices served	= 21.
3. Number of Final (Repairs) notices served	= Nil.
4. Number of Entries & Execution	= Nil.
5. Number of cases taken to court	= Nil.
6. Number of time & Place notices served	= Nil.
7. Number of undertakings received	= Nil.
8. Number of closing orders made	= Nil.
9. Number of demolition orders made	= Nil.
10. Number of demolitions affected	= Nil.
11. Number of Demolition orders outstanding at 31st Dec 55.	= Nil.

Private & Other Building during 1955.

Nil.

Slum Clearance & Unfit Houses.

In the return to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government it has been estimated that the number of houses to be dealt with in the next five years is 50.

Over Crowding Records not available.

Rehousing.

1. Number of application in hand for re-housing at 31st. December 1955 = 37.
2. Estimated number of houses to re-house families from possible clearance areas and individual unfit houses in the year = 10.

Housing Grants.

A total of 4 improvement grants were approved during the year. It is noted that there were a reduction in the number of applications despite the publicity given twelve months ago.

Housing Loans.

Loans for house purchase are not considered by the Council.

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FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS

There are 3 powered and 4 non-powered factories in the district. Each of these were inspected during the year and found to be complying with the necessary requirements.

GENERAL HYGIENE & SANITATION.

Refuse Disposal.

The collection and disposal of household refuse is carried out by the Council. There is a collection from each property once per week, refuse being collected from the houses and taken to the Tip by means of a Karrier Bantam Refuse Collection Vehicle. The method of disposal is by crude tipping on land which is well away from the houses. This service is felt to be satisfactory for a town of the size of Neyland, being both economical and inoffensive.

Sewage Disposal.

Approximately 99% of premises are connected to the foul water sewer. The effluent being discharged into the sewage disposal works which is situated on the Western end of the Promenade. The method of disposal is by separation of solids from liquid, solids are pumped to the sludge beds where it is left to dry. On drying, sludge is offered for sale, the liquid is drained into the Haven.

In the District only two areas are unsewered, and they are Mastle Bridge and Cemetery Road. The cost of sewerage for these areas is such that no scheme can be contemplated in the next few years.

Rodent Control.

Staff - One Part time.

Complaints received = 25.

Routine inspections = 92.

Number of premises treated for	Rats	Mice.
Houses.	74	15.
Business	5	Nil.

Public Conveniences.

The town is served by one Gents convenience only, and this structure will shortly be demolished.

Disinfection & Disinfestation.

General Nuisances.

Burial of Vagrant Dead.

Removal of persons in need of care.

Smoke abatement.

Public Baths & Washhouses.

Salvage.

Street Cleaning.

Camping Sites.

School, Public Houses & Cinemas Sanitation.

Petrol Licenses.

Mortuaries.

Nil
to
report.